



REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of June 24, 2005.

Reconsideration of the Application is requested.

Claims 1-15 are pending. New claims 7-15 are added.

Change of Correspondence Address

The Examiner is asked to take note of the change of correspondence address, mailed June 24, 2005.

Information Disclosure Statement

An indication that the references cited in an IDS submitted on June 24, 2005, have been considered is respectfully requested.

Notice of Copending Application

Applicants wish to draw the Examiner's attention to the following copending application and references cited therein:

Application Serial No. 10/860,195

Filed June 3, 2004

(Attorney Docket No D/3249Q-US-NP, XERZ 200718)

The Office Action

The arrangement of the Specification was objected to under 37 CFR 1.77(b). Applicants have amended the specification to add the appropriate section headings. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failure to show the "sheet position sensing system." Applicants have amended the specification to refer to the "large area sheet position sensor" as a sheet position sensing system 110. Accordingly, it is submitted that no amendments to the specification are necessary.

Claims 4-6 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) for being in improper form. Applicants have amended these claims to remove the multiple dependencies. Accordingly, it is requested that these claims now be examined on the merits.

Claims 1-3 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(i). Elements of claim 1 are now

separated by line indentations. Accordingly, it is requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended to remove reference to the printers and processing systems. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Jorg. Claim 1 recites a multifunction printed sheets interface system which includes plural sheet input areas, plural sheet outputs areas, a sheet position sensing system, and a sheet transporting system. The sheet transporting system includes independently operable sheet transports and provides selectable sheet translation to selectively transport sheets from selected ones of the plural sheet input areas to selected ones of the plural sheet outputs areas. The sheet transports provide variable angle driving for selectable sheet rotation and translation of selected sheets.

Jorg does not disclose such a system. Jorg discloses a paper handling system which includes modules 102, 200 which allow pieces of paper to be transported in a transport direction and in a direction transverse to the transport direction. There is no suggestion of selectively rotating the pieces of paper in Jorg's system. The Examiner points to element 134 of Jorg. However, this element is a turnover device. It does not permit rotation the piece of paper via variable angle driving. Nor does Jorg provide any motivation for rotation of sheets. Jorg's gathering path is nowhere more than one module wide. Thus, there is no motivation to provide sheet movement in other than the two orthogonal directions shown.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 and claims 3, and 5 - 7 dependent therefrom distinguish over the reference of record.

New claim 7 further defines the multifunction printed sheets interface system of claim 1 by reciting that a plurality of the sheet transports are each closer to four other sheet transports than the smallest sheet to be fed. Support for claim 7 is to be found in the specification at paragraph [0018] and in FIGURE 1, where it can be seen that, except for the sheet transports at the corners of the table, each sheet transport is surrounded by at least four others, each of which is closer than the small sheet size.

New claim 8 is similar to original claim 1 except in that it positively recites a plurality of printers and plurality of sheet processing systems.

Jorg does not disclose or fairly suggest a multifunction printed sheets interface

system in which a plurality of sheet input areas receive printed sheets from the plurality of printers. In Jorg, cutters deliver paper to a gathering path which branches at a rerouting module 116 for delivery of the paper to section F or G.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 8 and dependent claims 2 - 4 and 9 - 13 distinguish over the reference of record.

New claim 14 recites a method including printing sheets on a plurality of printers, feeding the printed sheets from the plurality of printers to a plurality of respective input areas of a printed sheets interface system, transporting the printed sheets from the input areas to selected ones of a plurality of output areas of the printed sheets interface system with a plurality of sheet transports, and sensing a position of the printed sheets during transporting.

Support for new claim 14 is to be found in claim 1, as originally filed, in the specification at paragraph [0018], as filed, and in US Pat. No. 6,476,376, incorporated by reference.

Jorg does not disclose such a method. In Jorg, sheets are transported from cutters 114. There is no suggestion or motivation in Jorg for conveying sheets from selected ones of a plurality of printers to selected ones of a plurality of output areas.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 14 and 15 distinguish over the reference of record.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1-15) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

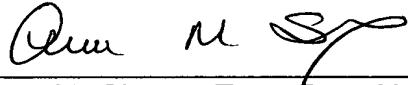
No additional fee is believed to be required for this Amendment B. However, the undersigned attorney of record hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Deposit Account No. 24-0037.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call the undersigned, at 216/861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN, MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

Dated: August 24, 2005


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